



EPA's Pacific Southwest Region includes the state of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, as well as 145 tribal nations and communities. Map shows boundaries of states, counties, and tribal lands.

EPA's Pacific Southwest Region

Officially known as Region 9, EPA's Pacific Southwest Region encompasses the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada; 145 Indian reservations and communities; and Pacific Islands, such as American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. possessions such as Wake, Midway, and Johnston Islands. Through Region 9, EPA also works on environmental protection with three independent island nations: the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Region 9's landscapes and cultures are the most diverse of any EPA region. The region includes Great Basin deserts, as well as California's Mojave Desert and Death Valley. At the other extreme are tropical islands and atolls stretching from Hawaii to Guam, nearly half a world away. Region 9 has more coral reef habitat than all other U.S. states and territories combined. Biologically, California, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands are among the most diverse areas on earth, with hundreds of habitat types harboring thousands of species which exist nowhere else. Hundreds of these species are officially listed as threatened or endangered.

Culturally, the Pacific Southwest Region includes the indigenous peoples of 145 Indian communities, ranging from the vast Navajo Reservation in the Four Corners area to small California Indian "rancherias" with only a few dozen members, as well as Native Hawaiians and peoples of the Pacific Islands. Region 9's urban areas, where the majority of the population lives, are home to people from every nation and ethnicity. In California, in fact, 2000 census data show that ethnic minorities now make up more than half the state's population. Region 9's largest

ethnic groups, numerically, are Hispanic, Asian-Pacific, and African-American. There is incredible diversity within these major groupings, and among those of European ancestry. New immigrants from around the world continue to arrive daily. The 2000 census showed that the Pacific Southwest Region is home to 42.5 million people, equal to about 15% of the nation's population.

This includes the most populous state, California, with 33.9 million. California also had the largest population increase of any state (up 4.1 million since 1990), and the second-largest metropolitan area, Los Angeles/Orange County, with 16.3 million people. The Region also includes the two fastest-growing states, Nevada (2.0 million, up 66% from 1990), and Arizona (5.1 million, up 40% from 1990). Hawaii has 1.2 million (up just 9% from 1990); other U.S. Pacific Islands are home to about 0.3 million. The Pacific Southwest also has the nation's first, third, and eighth fastest-growing metropolitan areas: Las Vegas, which grew by an astounding 83% since 1990; Yuma, Arizona, which grew by 50%; and Phoenix, which grew by 45%.

EPA's Pacific Southwest Regional Office, located at 75 Hawthorne St. in downtown San Francisco, is one of 10 EPA regional offices in the U.S., each responsible for carrying out EPA programs in their designated regions. Visitors are welcome at EPA's regional library between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. EPA's main office in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, sets national policy. Further information on EPA's policies and programs nationwide is available through EPA's central Web site, www.epa.gov